

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-14 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application, and were rejected in the November 28, 2006 office action. Claims 15-30 stand withdrawn. Claims 5 and 31 have been cancelled. With this Amendment, claim 1 was amended. Accordingly, claims 1-4 and 6-14 remain at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-4 and 6-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rose et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,709) in view of Horstmann (U.S. Patent No. 6,009,401). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In order to clarify the invention, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the template includes biometric or other personal identification data. This is provided in the original specification, which explains: “An example of template information is biometric information of a person such as fingerprint information, retina pattern information, iris pattern information, voice print information, and handwriting information. Personal identification information other than biometric information is also usable. Specific examples of such personal information includes a seal, a passport, a driver’s license, and a card.” (See page 54, line 19 through page 55, line 1.) Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Neither Rose et al. nor Horstmann, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the use a person identification certificate which includes a template, wherein the template includes biometric or other personal identification information, as recited in claim 1 and explained in the specification. In contrast, Rose et al. is directed to distributing a trial use of a licensed application program. A user accepts the license by typing an identification name or a

verification code. (col. 7, line 19-23.) Alternatively, the acceptance may be more passive, such that unless the user declines to accept the license terms, the license is accepted. (col. 7, lines 23-25.) Rose et al. is devoid of the use of a person identification certificate which includes a template, wherein the template includes biometric or other personal identification information. Similarly, Horstmann is devoid of the use of a person identification certificate which includes a template, wherein the template includes biometric or other personal identification information.

Since neither Rose et al. nor Horstmann, alone or in combination, disclose of suggest this limitation, Applicants submit that claim 1 is not obvious over the cited art and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn. Claims 2-4 and 6-14 depend from independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit claims 1-4 and 6-14 are allowable over the cited art.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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